

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE

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An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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The Great Judgment Morning

REV. BERT SHADDUCK

I

I dreamed that the great judgment morning had dawned, and the trumpet had blown;
I dreamed that the nations had gathered to judgment before the white throne;
From the throne came a bright, shining angel and stood on the land and the sea,
And swore, with his hand raised to heaven, that time was no longer to be.

II

The rich man was there, but his money had melted and vanished away;
A pauper he stood in the judgment, his debts were too heavy to pay.
The great man was there, but his greatness, when death came, was left far behind!
The angel that opened the records not a trace of his greatness could find.

III

The widow was there with the orphans; God heard and remembered their cries.
No sorrow in heaven forever; God wiped all the tears from their eyes.
The gambler was there and the drunkard, and the man that had sold them the drink,
With the people who gave him the license — together in hell they did sink.

IV

The moral man came to the judgment, but his self-righteous rags would not do;
The men who had crucified Jesus had passed off as moral men, too;
The soul that had put off salvation — "Not tonight; I'll get saved by-and-by;
No time now to think of religion!" At last they had found time to die.

Chorus

And, oh, what a weeping and wailing, as the lost were told of their fate;
They cried for the rocks and the mountains; they prayed, but their prayer was too late.

STORM CLOUDS OF JUDGMENT

"Our God Is a Consuming Fire"—Heb. 12:29
IS THERE A HELL? WHAT IS IT LIKE? HOW MAY WE ESCAPE?

BY REV. JOHN E. ZOLLER

"For the time is come that Judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be for them that obey not the Gospel of God?"

"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Peter 4:17, 18).

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God" (Heb. 10:31).

"In Hell he lift up his eyes being in torments" (Luke 16:23).

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men" (II Cor. 5:11).

you to know that God's Word teaches us that there is a Hell. I want to give you some idea of its nature, who will be there, why they will be there; and then before I close these pages I want to show you how you may escape Hell, telling you of the barriers God has provided for our protection and guidance.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression" (Isa. 58:1).

I hope I may be true to God's command. Brother pastor, do you preach what appeals to you, what you think will please the people, or do you seek the instruction and guidance of the Holy Spirit and give the people the message they need? Are you afraid you might hurt the feelings of some of the members if you show them God's hatred of sin and the reality of Hell? Or are you in the fog of doubt yourself? I do know that many ministers and Christian workers are filled with doubts and misgivings, and so purposely avoid the subject. Oh, if they only would study God's Word! How the people need to know the truth! The true minister will preach the truth as it is given in the Word. He may not like to discuss the terrible results of sin and the nature of its punishment, yet HE MUST PREACH THE TRUTH because of his love for souls and his desire to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Not An Easy Task

Please know, before you read any further, that it is not an easy task for me to bring you this kind of a message. Personally, I would rather tell you of God's wonderful love, of the joys and blessing of salvation, of Heaven, the home of the Redeemed and many other delightful subjects you and I might choose. But a true minister DARE NOT avoid this subject. He is a

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SPREAD IT!

Why not get extra copies of this paper with the young people's sermon on "A Cure For Snake Bite" and give it to young people and children who need saving? They will read it and some surely will be saved, if we prayerfully follow it up.

The article by Dr. John E. Zollner will be continued. Don't miss it next week.

See that Seventh-Day Adventist friends read the Bible teaching in this issue on the Sabbath question. Study it carefully for yourself.

What better gift could you send a loved one or friend than *The Sword of the Lord*? And be sure not to let your own subscription run out. Hadn't you better renew today and send the paper to someone else? The trial subscriptions sent last spring are now expired. Help us get those readers as permanent readers. Subscriptions are only \$1.00 a year for this soul winning paper, or better yet, three years for only \$2.00. We have begun the seventh year. Hundreds have been saved. Multiplied thousands have been blessed by this distinctively evangelistic, Bible teaching, heart-warming paper.

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Help for a Seventh Day Adventist

Christians, Get Out Your Bibles and Learn As You Read

BY THE EDITOR

July 26, 1940

Mrs. E. M. —
L., Wisconsin
Dear Mrs. M. —:

I appreciate your writing to me. I am glad you say you have read "carefully and prayerfully" my booklet on "SUNDAY OR SABBATH, WHICH SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE?" I trust you got some good out of the booklet, as so many others have.

You wrote nine pages, in comments on the Sabbath question. I will prayerfully answer your questions and show you some of the errors you have fallen into by following Mrs. White, whose writings Seventh-Day Adventists count as inspired of God like the Bible, and by following other Adventist literature. But first, I mention some things taught in the little booklet of mine, and proven with Scripture, which you do not deny. Therefore, I trust that you admit they are proven facts. Note these proven points on which Bible students must all agree, since they are so clearly the truth of the Bible.

1. The Sabbath was made known first at Mount Sinai. That is the express statement of Nehemiah 9:13, 14, as follows:

"Thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments;

"And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses, thy servant.

You do not deny, and no one can deny, therefore, that the Sabbath

was made known at Mount Sinai, not before, and that it was by the hand of Moses, and a part of the Mosaic law.

2. You do not deny, of course, that before Moses gave the law from God to Israel, no one knew or observed the Sabbath. It had not yet been made known. Adam, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, were all ignorant of the Sabbath. Not once did they observe it, nor even speak of it. They were never commanded to observe the Sabbath, because it was not yet made known. Genesis 2:3 was not written till after Sinai, and no one observed the Sabbath till it was given with the rest of the Mosaic law.

3. I see also that you do not deny that the Sabbath was given as a special command and sign to Israel, not to Gentiles. Be sure to acknowledge that fact to yourself, and open your heart to see what it means. No one can deny that the Sabbath was given to Israel, and for Israel as a special covenant between them and God. Read again Exodus 31:12-17 noting the words I have underlined for emphasis:

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations: that you may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.

"Ye shall keep the sabbath, therefore, for it is holy unto you; everyone that defileth it shall surely be put to death;"

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A CURE FOR SNAKE BITE

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Sunday school message to Junior and Intermediate Departments, First Presbyterian Church, Dubuque, Iowa, April 21, 1940. Stenographically reported.)

I am going to read to you about a cure for snake bite. How many ever went fishing and slept out on the ground? If you ever sleep out, oh, boy, look out for snakes! I remember when I was a boy in west Texas I saw a lot of rattle snakes.

I am going to tell you about a cure for snake bite. How many boy scouts are here? You have girl scouts? Did you learn to take potassium permanganate along for snake bite? Did you learn to use a tourniquet and suck the poison out of the snake bite? Sure, the girls know. But this is a different remedy for snake bite.

Here is a case where some people got snake bit. This is in Numbers, chapter 21, verse 25 and following:

"And the people spake against God and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any

water: and our soul loatheth this light bread."

They talked as if they didn't have enough to eat, they were grumbling at God and grumbling at Moses. Do you know what they ate? They had angels' food. Every day God let it fall down from Heaven and every morning they gathered it. On every Friday they would go out and gather twice as much for Friday and Saturday, too, for Saturday was their Sabbath day. God called it angels' food and sent it every day.

Some people, no matter how nice things are, grumble at what they have to eat. Some people say they don't like oatmeal, or they don't like toast, or they don't like spinach. And some people don't like string beans. Some of you want ice cream and cake all the time. Have you ever grumbled at what you had to eat? You had better not do it any more. Listen what happened to these people that grumbled. They said, "Our soul loatheth this light bread."

"And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died."

Do you know what a serpent is? A serpent is a snake. So when

we say serpent, you will know it means a snake. The Lord sent fiery serpents or fiery snakes that bit the people and a lot of them died. I think it served them right, don't you, for grumbling about what they had to eat.

"Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people."

Good old Moses. You had better not run down the preacher, because when you are sick and about to die, you might want some preacher to pray for you!

Anybody who gets it in for God is going to run down the preacher, too. If you don't like God, you won't like preachers. But when these people got sick and were about to die from the snake bites, they began to say, "Moses, pray for us." And Moses did, and the Lord told him what to do. Listen—

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

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STORM CLOUDS OF JUDGMENT

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voice for the Holy Spirit and he must preach the message God would have him bring.

America is in need of much vital, constructive preaching on the subject of eternal punishment. The people have wandered so far from God we even question whether there be any such place as "Hell." The name has become a target for jokes. Many people even question whether there be a God. They live as though all they had was a body; it is eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die, and when we are dead it is for a long, long time. They give no thought to the outcome of a sinful life.

Modern education scoffs at the idea of "Hell." Many teachers in the day schools sow the seeds of doubt in the plastic minds of growing boys and girls. This teaching is continued in the high school and the university. They label the teaching of "Hell" sixteenth century theology. Some theological seminaries even scoff and ridicule the fact of Hell; they send out ministers with minds filled with doubt and unbelief.

The Experience of Dr. George Betts

A few years ago, Dr. George Betts, one of the professors on the faculty of Northwestern University sent a questionnaire to fifteen hundred protestant ministers representing twenty leading denominations of five theological seminaries. Seven hundred questionnaires were returned which represented a cross section of the ministers and students of these denominations. According to the returns given, 34 per cent of the ministers and 76 per cent of the students deny that Hell exists. So we see the growing trend toward unbelief.

This only goes to prove my point that we have wandered far, far from God. Our Bibles are a closed book, opened only when trouble, sickness, and death stalk our homes. We have no time for Bible study and prayer with our families, our time is taken by other things. Ours is a modern age, an age of form and ceremony, an age of substitutes. We own beautiful Bibles, leather bound, silk sewed; we place them where they can be seen, but they are seldom opened. We build great cathedrals, and equip them with wonderful pipe organs and sweet sounding chimes and the most comfortable seats, but they are largely empty. Our reverence and fear of God has gone. OUR REALIZATION OF THE AWFULNESS OF SIN HAS GONE. Jesus Christ is considered just a man, a good man, but JUST A MAN. We do not feel we need to repent. We talk much about our goodness, our morality. Any preacher who believes in "Hell" and preaches it is considered ignorant, a fanatic, one holding to this sixteenth century theology they like to talk about, a person who may be sincere but is to be pitied.

The Devil Is Behind This

The Devil is behind this teaching. He does not want men to know the truth and He would purposely keep men in darkness. I'll tell you why. MEN WHO BELIEVE IN HELL SEEK A SAVIOUR. Do you know why multitudes today deny the fact of Hell? The Devil has blinded their minds, not physical eyes, BUT THEIR MINDS.

"The God of this world hath blinded the MINDS of them which believe not" (II Cor. 4:4).

He does not want the light of the Gospel to shine, for this would bring enlightenment and His power over men would be broken.

Do you see it? Are you one of those who have listened to the vain

philosophies of men until you, too, question the fact of Hell? Are you one of those who are confused over this question? If so, I want to help you. I want you to know the truth. Please study this message carefully for it may be the turning point of your life; it is as serious as this.

I want to get you to think; I write it again, I WANT YOU TO THINK! Do some constructive studying and thinking for yourself! Don't accept the statements of men no matter how reasonable they may seem to be. Give these statements careful consideration even though they may come from the lips of a modernist minister, a teacher or an instructor in a seminary. Ask yourself the question, "WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY ABOUT IT?" Many of the modern ideas taught today regarding eternal punishment will never stand the light of God's precious Holy Word.

These Teachers May Be Sincere

I'll admit these teachers and preachers MAY BE SINCERE. I'm not questioning their sincerity. What I want to know is, "How can they teach that of which they are ignorant?" They teach and preach purely from the standpoint of the natural man. Many teachers and preachers have never been converted, they have never been "born again." HOW CAN THEY TEACH GOD'S WORD? The natural man knows not the things of the Spirit of God. No wonder they call the preaching of the doctrine of Hell foolishness and sixteenth century theology. They will consider this message sheer nonsense and if you believe it they will consider you a fool. But they reason purely from the standpoint of the natural man, no wonder this doctrine is foolishness to them.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

This is the reason so many folk scoff at the idea of "HELL." SPIRITUAL TRUTHS MUST BE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED. It is the only way they can be known. Only the Holy Spirit can give this discernment.

Suppose all your friends denied the fact of Hell, does this do away with it? Suppose this widespread tendency to discount and disbelieve the Bible continues to spread until men everywhere scoff at the idea. Will this mean that God's Word is not true? No, my friends, you do not do away with Hell just because some men scoff and ridicule the doctrine. God's Word is true and endureth forever.

"The word of the Lord endureth forever" (I Pet. 1:25).

Men Scoffed At Noah

When Noah told the people God would destroy the world with water if they did not repent, they laughed at him and continued in their sin. Everybody mocked him, he was the laughing-stock of the country, but he continued until the flood came and ALL WERE DESTROYED.

"All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died." (Gen. 7:22).

Who was right, the people who mocked or Noah? Isn't it the same today? Hear the laughter and jeers of those who mock God. Will you believe the scoffers of God's Word?

Men Scoffed At Lot

When the Lord's messengers told Lot Sodom would be destroyed, Lot pleaded with men to flee with him lest they, also, be destroyed. But they scoffed at him.

"But he seemed as one that mocked" (Gen. 19:14).

Then the fire fell and Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed; Lot and the few who believed and fled, alone were saved. Everyone else perished just as God said.

"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven:

"And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (Gen. 19:24, 25).

Who was right? Lot, or those who mocked him? My friends, you had better listen when God speaks! Let men mock if they will, plenty of men are doing it today, but do not be misled by their mockery.

Help For a Seventh Day Adventist

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(Skip to verse 16 for convenience).

"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant."

"It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever . . ."

It was a sign to Israel, it set them apart, it was a perpetual covenant which would not change, would not command to others, but would keep between God and the descendants of Israel alone. Ezekiel 20:12 says the same thing, that the Sabbath, Saturday, the seventh day, was given as part of the Mosaic law to Israel, setting them apart from others.

4. I note that you do not deny, so you doubtless confess that never, anywhere in the Bible, was the Sabbath, Saturday, commanded to Gentiles, or to anybody else but Jews under Mosaic law, Jews and their circumcised servants, who had become Jews keeping the ceremonial law. You evidently know that Jesus never commanded anybody to keep the Sabbath while he was on earth, neither did Paul, nor any other apostle, nor is it commanded anywhere in the whole New Testament, for anybody to observe the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday. Do you agree to that?

5. I see you did not deny, in your nice letter of nine pages, that which I showed from God's Word so clearly; that no Christian now is to be judged concerning the Sabbath, which was a shadow, or ceremony, pointing to Christ, and has now been fulfilled in Christ. You remember in my booklet I quoted Colossians 2:14, 16, 17, as follows:

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, nor in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days;

"Which are a shadow of

You had better believe God's Word.

"Let God be true but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:2).

Men Scoffed At Daniel

A great feast was in progress in Babylon. Hundreds of lords and ladies were present, all dressed in the latest fashion. The King of Babylon was host at the banquet, wine flowed like water, God was forgotten, the people reveled in sin. As the hilarity increased, the King commanded that the golden vessels which were taken from the temple of the house of God be brought, and when this was done, they drank wine in them.

Then a hand appeared out of space and began writing upon the wall. Daniel interpreted the writing, telling the King his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

They laughed and scoffed and the party went on.

"In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain" (Dan. 5:30).

Who was right, Daniel or the Babylonian crowd who disbelieved?

Do you get what I am trying to convey to you? It is common for men today to scoff at the doctrine of "Hell," they laugh at you when you tell them God will punish sin and put it from Him forever, they sneer at all preaching that warns them they will go to Hell if they do not repent, where they will dwell in eternal torment. I say again, men laugh at this preaching, but REMEMBER—

God's Word Is True!

There is a Hell! If men want to mock, LET THEM MOCK; if they will scoff, LET THEM SCOFF. But, I beg you, I plead with you, in the name of the Christ who died upon the Cross to save you, do not be misled by their false beliefs and vain philosophies! Do not make the mistake the people made during the time of Noah, or the time of Lot, or the time of Belshazzar of Babylon and others I might mention! Heed the warning and repent before it is too late and you are lost!

things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Please notice that the "handwriting or ordinances," that is, laws, ceremonial laws, Christ took out of the way, "nailing it to his cross." The cross, then, fulfilled the meaning of ceremonial laws. And among the things included in this "handwriting of ordinances" which Christ took out of the way was "the sabbath." (In the original Greek it is not "the sabbath days," but just "the sabbath." Note *days* is in italics in your Bible to show this.)

And then comes the plain command that no Christian is to be held guilty for not keeping the Sabbath, Saturday, as Jews had been commanded to keep it. Now it is nailed to the cross and Christians are not to keep it, not to be judged by it.

You must not dodge the plain meaning here. Not a single verse in the New Testament commands us to keep the Sabbath. And here we are plainly commanded not to keep the Sabbath, just as we are not to observe ceremonial commands about eating and drinking, Jewish feast days, etc.

Now, if you will get these scriptural facts in mind, which cannot be denied by one who will believe God's Word, and check these scriptures for himself, instead of following some false teacher, you will be ready to learn the answer to some problems you have not understood. Prayerfully, I will now show where you have made some errors, led astray from the truth by your Seventh-Day Adventist friends. I do it in love, and hope it will be a blessing.

1. You say "Jesus observed the sabbath command." I am sorry, but I must point out that the Bible expressly says He did not. John 5:17, 18 proves conclusively that Jesus did not keep the Sabbath (Saturday, the Old Testament Sabbath), as follows:

"But Jesus answered them, my Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

"Therefore the Jews sought to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

"He . . . had broken the sabbath," says the Scripture! And Jesus said about what He did that Sabbath, "My Father worked hitherto, AND I WORK." The way to keep the Sabbath was to rest, simply that and nothing more. The way to break it was to work. The command in the ten commandments is not to work. Exodus 20:10 says, "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work . . ." When Jesus worked on the Sabbath, as He plainly said He did, He did not keep the Sabbath. And the next verse expressly says He broke the Sabbath. Notice, it does not say that the Jews thought He had broken the Sabbath, but that He "had broken the sabbath." He made the Sabbath, so He was Lord, that is, boss of the Sabbath, and had the right to break it as He did.

Now you must never say again that Jesus observed the Sabbath, for He said He did not.

You forget what the Bible commands as the way to observe the Sabbath. It did not command to keep the Sabbath day by going to church, by worship, by teaching or preaching. No, none of these were commanded for Jews on their Sabbath. Rather, they were simply to rest, not to do any work at all! They were not even to build a fire on that day (Exo. 35:3). They could not even pick up sticks on the Sabbath, and one who did was stoned by God's command (Num. 15:32-36). They could not even pick up manna which fell from heaven, off the ground (Exo. 16:27, 28). They were even forbidden to leave their home on the Sabbath: "abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day" (Exo. 16:29). That is not tradition, but the Mosaic law. And Jesus did not keep that.

So you do not keep the Sabbath if you go out of your place, if you have a fire in your home, if you pick up food or sticks for a meal. Going to church is not keeping the Sabbath. The Sabbath was commanded as a day of rest, not a day of worship. So Jesus did not keep the Sabbath.

And that proves, too, that the Old Testament Sabbath was cere-

monial law, not moral law. Certainly Jesus never broke any moral law of right and wrong. He had a right to leave off any ceremony when its purpose was fulfilled as was true of the Sabbath (Col. 2:16, 17).

2. You say, "Paul very definitely observed the sabbath," and give references where Paul went to the synagogue to preach to Jews who met on Saturday then, as they do now. In the same paragraph you say, "It was Christ's custom to go into the synagogue on the sabbath (Luke 4:16)."

So I answer, sure, both Christ and Paul went to the synagogues. Other New Testament preachers, too, went to Jewish synagogues many times, and preached to the Jews assembled there on that day. For the same reason, I hold most of my street meetings on Saturday because I can preach to the larger crowds that assemble. But by doing that I am not keeping the sabbath, and neither was Paul nor Christ! Paul definitely did not keep the Sabbath, as I have already shown Christ did not.

Where did you get the idea that going to church was keeping the Sabbath? The Bible never suggests such a thing. The Sabbath means rest. Jews were commanded that both men and beast were to rest and do no work at all. Not once in the Bible was anyone commanded to assemble for worship on the Sabbath day. No special offerings were made on Saturday. Attending the synagogue is never mentioned in the Old Testament as a Sabbath duty, and of course not in the New Testament. Those who went did so because they wanted to worship, or for other reasons, but not as a way of keeping the Sabbath holy. To rest was to keep the Sabbath. To work broke it.

3. You argue that Paul and the saints of Troas met and broke bread on Monday. Why not take the simple Word of God that it was on the first day of the week, as Acts 20:7 says? Their days began at sundown. The first day of the week began at sundown, then Paul and others gathered, with many lights in the chamber, we are told, and he preached till midnight. Later, the same day, Sunday, they broke bread. Is it hard to believe what God says?

4. You amuse me, a former college teacher, a long student of church history, when you quote Seventh-Day Adventist writers to mean that Emperor Constantine started Christians observing Sunday as a day of worship and rest. He did not. He simply followed the counsel of bishops who had long taught that Christians should observe Sunday as the Sabbath. It is not the Sabbath, but the Lord's day, and should not be observed as a sabbath. But from the days of the apostles the first day of the week had been the special day of meeting by Christians in the church, as you see from Acts 20:7 and First Corinthians 16:2. If you would study the old church fathers and church history, and "reliable ancient history," as you say, and not so much Adventist literature, you would see that what I have said is so.

Yes, Sunday is named for the sun, but Saturday is named for the planet Saturn. It is simply not historically true that Christians began to worship on the first day of the week to please the sun worshippers. Nor did Jews begin to worship on Saturday to please Saturn worshippers. You have been deceived.

5. You say, "Jesus expected the prophecies to be observed when He gave the prophecies of Matthew 24," and that, "Sabbath will be observed in the new earth (Isa. 66:22, 23)."

I am glad you mentioned those two scriptures together, for they go together.

You remember that the Lord plainly said that the Sabbath is a sign, a special covenant between Him and Israel, a covenant that sets them apart from other nations. That is the plain statement of Exodus 31:12-17 quoted above, and of Ezekiel 20:12. Now since Israel is to be restored to Palestine as a nation and is to start again observing the ceremonial laws which set them apart from Gentile Christians in this day, naturally they will again observe the day of rest, Saturday, which is the Jewish Sabbath.

Jesus in Matthew 24:20 certainly speaks of the time when Jews

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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will again be in Jerusalem observing the Old Testament sacrifices, and observing the ceremonial oblations which for us New Testament Christians are already passed away. Look carefully at verse 20, where the Sabbath is mentioned. Then the next verse tells us plainly that, "For then shall be great tribulation." It is the great tribulation that comes after the rapture of the saints, and just before the Saviour brings us back to reign. Now look above verse twenty to verse fifteen, and see that it is the time of the "abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet."

It is Daniel 9:27 that tells us of the abomination of desolation, and the same verse tells how many of Daniel's people, the Jews, will be given a treaty, or covenant by the prince, the Man of Sin, or Antichrist, allowing them to return to Jerusalem, and start again their sacrifices and oblations. Then, in the midst of the week of years, he will stop the sacrifices and oblations, and according to Second Thessalonians 2:4 he will enter the temple (which Jews will rebuild for their Old Testament sacrifices) and claim to be God. With this in mind, Jesus leaves word for the Jews of that day to pray that their flight may not be on the Sabbath day, when a Jew really keeping the Saturday Sabbath was commanded to "abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day" (Exo. 16:29). In that case Jews would be killed, since they could not run away and still observe the strict Jewish Sabbath.

Isaiah 66:22 and 23 tells us that both the new moons and the sabbaths will be observed by Jews as a nation after their regathering, in the millennial reign of Christ. Note also that it is for Jews only, that their Levites and priests will be restored (verse 21), and that Jewish ceremonial law forbidding swine's flesh, etc., will be enforced (verse 17 in the same chapter). But we know that Christians are plainly forbidden to keep these ceremonial laws about priests, sacrifices, diet, new moons and sabbath days. See again Colossians 2:14-17.

7. You say, as you read in a Seventh-Day Adventist book, that the pope is the Antichrist, that his title, *Vicarius, Fili Dei*, meaning "Vicar of the son of God," shows his number to be 666. You do it thus:

VIC ARIUS FILII DEI
5-1-500 1-5 1-50-1-1 500-1
Then you add all the above numbers and come to 666. But to do so, notice, you have to count "u" as "v," and have to violate all the rules of Roman numerals. You have IC to mean 501 when it would clearly mean 499 in Roman numerals. You have IV in the second word to mean 6 when it always means 4. Roman numerals are never counted that way. Always if smaller numbers are before larger ones it means the larger number less the smaller. IV means one less than five, for example. By such far-fetched methods do false cults try to prove what is not in the Bible. The purpose is to say that the Catholics changed from Saturday to Sunday, that the Pope is the Antichrist, and so all who worship on Sunday take the "Mark of the Beast" and are lost! If you would read the Bible more, and prayerfully, and check up on the scriptures here given, you would soon clear your mind of much rubbish. Second Thessalonians 2:7, 8 plainly says that the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition, that Wicked has not been revealed, will not be till after the rapture, when the Holy Spirit, who restrains him, is taken out of the way. Thus the pope could not be the Antichrist, however bad his teaching and influence may be. Nor could Sunday observance be the "MARK OF THE BEAST," since the beast has not appeared.

8. You say, rightly, "Let us study prayerfully, accept all the light Jesus unfolds to us, try the spirits to see if they speak according to the Word of God and accept only that which we know is inspired of God."

Now, if we accept only what we know is inspired of God, we must reject the writings of Mrs. White, officially claimed to be inspired of

A CURE FOR SNAKE BITE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"And Moses made a serpent of brass"—he made a snake out of brass. Boy! can't you imagine how it shined!—"and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."

That is a wonderful story of snake bite. There is more to it than you might think at the first glance. When the Children of Israel—and there were as many of them as there are in the city of Chicago, all camped out in the wilderness—when they complained at God and at God's man, Moses, God sent a lot of fiery snakes among them and they bit the people and the people began to die. Then they came to Moses and said, "Moses, pray for us." And God said to Moses, "Make a snake out of brass and put it up on a pole where everybody can see it who wants to, and then anybody that looks at that brass snake, the Lord will take the poison out and they won't die." Doesn't that look easy?

Boy, that is a sure enough cure for snake bite! I wonder what is the meaning in it?

Why do you suppose the Lord let the snakes come and bite the people? Evidently because they had already sinned. Snakes must have something to do with sin, then. That is right. Back in the very beginning when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they had every kind of fruit and every kind of good thing to eat, and they didn't have any sin at all. And Adam could get hold of a lion by his mane and say, "Come on, Bruno," and lead him around, and no beast would hurt one in those days. But the devil got in the snake and came to Eve and said, "Did God say you would die if you ate the fruit of a certain forbidden tree?" You will not surely die. The Lord didn't tell the truth about that. You will be smart and you will know as much as God knows."

And he got Eve to take it and eat it and she gave to Adam her husband and he ate and sinned, and God put a curse on the ground and they had to work for a living. And to his wife, God said, "You will have to mind your husband and you will have a lot of heartbreak because you sinned."

God in her writings. Maybe you did not know that, but you can verify that she, one of the first leaders and founders of the Seventh-Day Adventist movement claimed to have, and others accepted the claim, that her writings were inspired like the Bible. That puts that cult with Mormons, who claim the book of Mormon is inspired; it puts Seventh-Day Adventists on the same plane with Christian Scientists, so-called, who claim Mary Baker Eddy's writings were inspired. It brings the curse on all who accept anything else as inspired besides the Bible, as you see from Revelation 22:18.

Try Seventh-Day Adventist teaching by the Bible. Do they teach salvation by works, or by grace alone? By works, of course; by sabbath keeping, by tithing, by law and commandments. But that is not the plan of John 3:16 or of Ephesians 2:8. It is the heresy Paul condemned so strongly in the Galatians, when he said they had fallen from grace in doctrine, and now taught salvation by the law. He said, in Galatians 4:9, 10:

"But now, after that ye have known God or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years." That is the sin of Seventh-Day Adventism.

I thank you for writing me, and I plan to use this answer to help others also, who have these questions and have been led into error, perhaps, by the literature of this cult. If you have other questions, please write me, and I will gladly help you if I can.

In the name of Christ our Saviour and His Word,

I am your brother,

JOHN R. RICE

The booklet, *Sunday or Sabbath—Which Should Christians Observe?* has other teaching not given here. Write for it. Sent free on request. To the editor, 512 W. Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

And to the snake God said, "You will have to crawl on your belly from this time on because the devil used you to cause man to sin. I will put enmity between man and snakes from this time on."

That is the reason you don't like snakes. I don't like snakes. Even if it is just a chicken snake or a grass snake. I don't like them. That is because God put enmity between men and snakes; God made it that way. The next time you see a snake, you say, "I know why you have got to crawl on your belly. You let the devil get in you and you caused Adam and Eve to sin in the garden of Eden." It wasn't that snake that did it, but it was his great, great, great, great grand-daddy.

There is a lesson in this. The devil got man to sin and from that time on man has had it in for the snakes. The reason is because snakes are a type of sin. So when you see a snake, think of the old devil. God calls Satan a snake. In Revelation the twelfth chapter, here the Bible plainly says that the old devil is a snake. Listen very carefully now:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent—(that old snake—called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

"That old serpent or snake"—that is what the Bible calls the devil. And in the twentieth chapter of Revelation it says the same thing, too.

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." The Bible calls him a snake. So snakes are a picture of sin and of the devil. Do you see why you don't like them and are afraid of snakes in your heart?

And the snakes came and bit the people of Israel, camped out in the wilderness, as we read. That was fitting, all right. I suppose God thought, "The old devil has already bitten you in your heart and has gotten you to sin in your heart, and you have been complaining at God and didn't like what I had given you to eat." And they had said to God, "I wish we hadn't come out here with you. We don't like Moses, this man who prays for us and loves us and preaches to us, yet we hate him."

God says, "The people have already been snake bit in heart. The old devil has already gotten into their hearts and led them to sin, so I will give them a snake bite outside in their bodies, to show what has happened already in their hearts." And God sent snakes among the people and the snakes bit them. God is just showing what has already happened in their hearts, and in yours, too. The devil had already—"that old serpent the devil"—had already bitten them in their hearts and they were poisoned in their souls against God. They didn't want to please God, they didn't want to do what God wanted them to do. They were already poisoned with the snake bite inside. You can see then you can be snake bit in body and snake bit in your heart.

There are rattlesnakes and copperheads and water-moccasins—those are different kinds of poisonous snakes. It is bad enough to be bitten on the hand or foot by a poisonous snake, but don't you think it would be a good deal worse for the old serpent, Satan himself, that father of all sin and trouble, for him to get in your heart and make you a sinner against God? That would be worse. God said, "I will let this be a sign to you. I will let the snakes come and bite you and let you die. Because if you do not get saved, you are going to die and go to Hell eternally because the devil has bitten you in your hearts."

Wouldn't you like to have a remedy for snake bite—not just for your body alone, but for the soul that is snake bitten by sin? Listen very carefully now. We never would know what all that meant when God told Moses to tell the people, "I will make a big snake and put it on a pole, and when you look at that you won't be sick any more, you won't die," if Jesus had not explained it. What does that mean? I never did know until I read over in the New Testament and read what Jesus said about it.

One night a man came to Jesus, named Nicodemus. He was a leader of the Jews and a pretty good man. John, chapter three, tells about it in the Bible. He was a church man, but a lot of people in the churches are going to Hell because they have never had a cure for the snake bite in their hearts. If you go in a garage, that won't make you an automobile, and it doesn't make you a Christian to join a church, either. No, it does not. You have got to have something fixed inside. Do you see that? Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3, 5, 7).

And Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born again when he is as old as I am?"

Jesus said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. You have got to have a new heart."

What's the matter with him was that he was poisoned inside just like everybody else is. I wonder how many here of you boys and girls, these young men and young women—you all want to do right, you don't want to go to the penitentiary, you don't want to turn out to be a murderer, you don't want to turn out to be a drunkard after a while and lose your job and your friends all quit you and you just be a tramp on the street. But nobody plans to! Do you think anybody does? Now I tell you there are times when you will do things that you never dreamed you would do and you will say things you didn't plan to say. How many of you girls ever said something that after a while you were awfully sorry about it and you thought, "I don't know what made me say that." And you were ashamed of it later on? There must be something wrong inside, this is not just all outside.

What made the people complain at God that they didn't like what God had given them to eat? God had been giving them food every day for years and they quarrelled and complained. There was something inside that was wrong; there was poison inside in the heart. There surely was. And girls and boys, there are many times when you have said what you never intended to say and did things you never did think you would do.

I have gone to the jails many times and some young fellow in jail for some kind of a crime has said, "Oh, I don't know what made me do it!"

A dear girl who has already

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

GEMS

Trust not the world. It never pays what it promises.
The world is all title page without contents.
The world itself makes us sick of the world.
Worldliness makes youth inglorious, age shameful.
The devil's dice are all loaded.
There are plenty of filling stations on the road to hell.
The best way to live in the world is to live above it.

Will Worldly Christians Be Caught Up In the Rapture?

By the Editor

Mr. L. S.—
Oklahoma

Dear Brother S—:

Thank you for your letter in which you asked two questions: (1) Can a saved person indulge in worldly pleasures and still go up in the rapture? and (2) If we repent of such sins, are we still to be taken up in the rapture?

Your opinion is right and your statement of the case is very good. You say, "I believe that if I should stumble enough after I am saved to go to... any of the worldly sins that we have to contend with in our walk here on this earth, should the rapture take place, I will be forcibly taken from that act and go up, but will I ever be ashamed to meet my maker face to face, for wasting my time in this manner, when souls are needing to be saved. I will suffer loss but be saved as of by fire."

The rapture is a part of salvation. Romans 8:23 says, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Part of our redemption, then, is the redemption of our bodies. Christ died for us on the cross and His death purchased perfect and full redemption. Our bodies must be redeemed thus at the rapture. That is a part of salvation. Those of us who have trusted Christ have received everlasting life for our souls—but included in the bargain is perfect everlasting life for our bodies, too; redemption from our sin and its marks. Then our natures will be completely purged from sin. And we get that full salvation then as a result of trusting Christ now. It is a part of salvation.

So one who has trusted Christ has a part in the rapture just as definitely as he has a home in heaven. The rapture is by grace and not of works just like the rest of our salvation is.

However, you are right when you say that saved people if they fall into sin will be ashamed when they are suddenly brought out to meet God. That is what the Bible says: "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28). Many of a Christian's works in such cases will be burned up and he will be saved "so as by fire" (1 Cor. 3:15).

I thank you for writing and I hope you got the books you ordered.

In Christian love, yours,
John R. Rice

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3. It can be done any time.
4. It reaches all classes.
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A CURE FOR SNAKE BITE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

gone in bad sin and was in disgrace and shame — she was only a child — and she said, "I can't understand why I did it. I never dreamed I would do anything like that."

And you will do things you never dreamed you would do because in your heart there is the poison of sin. The old devil has gotten in your heart and caused you to sin. How many have found there is sin in your heart — you never wanted it and you don't want it now, but nevertheless you have found there is sin in your heart and when you try to be good and you want to do good, something gets you to sin? How many have found that out? Have you found there is poison in your heart?

Jesus said, "Nicodemus, I will tell you how you can have this new heart. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness — that is just what I read you about — 'As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up —'"

What do you mean by "lifted up," Jesus?

I mean nailed to a cross and lifted up like Moses did that snake on a pole!

You know when Jesus died He was lifted up on the cross just like that brass snake on the pole. He held it up for everybody to see.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." The Son of man must be lifted up on the cross and whosoever believes in Him should not perish.

Do you know John 3:16? Let's all say it quietly together. Be sure to get the words right, because I want you to remember what it says.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, what was that a picture of? Look at the brass snake on the pole. Here was a man sick and about to die, and he says, "Will I get well?"

Certainly you will get well and

the poison will be all gone when you look at the brass snake on the pole!

Now what is that a picture of? Listen very carefully:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up:

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16).

Now what does that mean? Just like a person who had been bitten by a snake could look to the snake on the pole and get well. And if you look to Jesus in your heart the snake bite inside will be cured and you will not perish and go to Hell, but you will have everlasting life.

You say, "What does that mean? That brass snake on the pole, what does that picture?"

That pictures Jesus.

"But I thought a snake pictured sin. I thought a snake meant the old devil that got in a snake and the Bible calls Satan a serpent, but here Jesus says, 'I will be lifted up like that snake on a pole.' What does that mean? Was Jesus a sinner?"

Listen very carefully, for if you don't you won't understand what I say. This is the most profound truth in the whole Bible. When Jesus died on the cross — there was the wickedest sinner this world ever saw dying right there.

You say, "Jesus a sinner?"

Yes, Jesus the meanest sinner that ever lived.

"I thought He never did sin," you say.

I will show you what the Bible says about it. Turn to Second Corinthians 5:21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Now God says to Jesus, "Jesus, you never did wrong, but I am going to let You be a sinner — You never did any sin, but I am going to put John Rice's sin on you, and I am going to put Paul's sin on you, and the sin of these girls and these boys." And the Father says, "Jesus, I am going to put J's sin on you, too" — and (to a boy near the front) what's your name? Paul. God says to Jesus, "I am going to put Paul's sin on you, too." And so when Jesus died, your sin was on Jesus. Jesus died like a wicked sinner ought to die. They oughtn't to take anybody up and kill him unless he was a wicked sinner, and when Jesus died, He died like a sinner. Barabbas was supposed to die on that cross that day, but they let Barabbas go and took Jesus. And when Jesus prayed, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He did not say, "My Father." He couldn't call God His father when He was taking my place. When I was a lost sinner God wasn't my Father, and He couldn't call God His Father when He was taking my place on the cross. He couldn't call God "Father" until it was all finished. And God turned His face away and said, "All right, I will let Jesus die on the cross, and I won't be with Him, because Jesus is dying like the wickedest sinner that ever lived." He never did any sin in the world, and yet He died a sinner's death.

Now who really was dying? I was really dying there. You see, Jesus took my sin and paid it for me. When Jesus died that day, it was really I who was dying, wasn't it? And it was you, dying that day. It was all the sinners in the world who died that day when Jesus died. Jesus died for sinners, and died for you, and when He died on the cross, He took the place of sinners. That ought to have been me on the cross. So God had Moses put a snake up there to picture us poor sinners.

You told me you do lots of things wrong. That shows you have a wicked heart, when you do things you didn't think you would do. You ought to die, and that snake fits you just right, and it fits me just right. We ought to die for our sins.

Our mothers and dads never know all the wickedness that is in

our hearts. They catch you sometimes and whip you, but there is a lot more there they never know about. Isn't that right? There is more inside than there is out. So when Jesus died, He died for us. That ought to have been us there dying on the cross.

Now when Moses put the brass snake on the pole, what did the people have to do? They just had to look at that brass snake and get well. Isn't that easy? Isn't that wonderful? But on the other hand, Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

"Nicodemus," Jesus said, "the Son of man must be lifted up that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Back there in the wilderness they just had to look at that brass snake and they got well, and all we have to do is in our hearts look to Jesus on the cross, and I look up today! I did when I was nine years old. That was a long time ago; I am forty-four now. I looked up in my heart and found Jesus had died in my place and my sin was all taken to the cross. He died like a sinner when He wasn't a sinner, but He died for me and you and all you have to do is look to Jesus on the cross and say, "Lord Jesus, You took my place, didn't you?"

"Yes," He replies, "I did."

"All right, Jesus, I will let You be my Saviour, my Substitute. You took my place and paid for all my sins."

And He says, "Yes, I loved you enough to do that. I have already suffered for your sins."

And you see I get the righteousness of Jesus Who never sinned, and so I take His place in God's sight, and He took my punishment, and I am counted good, and God forgives me and now I am counted as a Son, and my sins are past and forgiven and God will never hold them against me any more! Isn't that a simple way to be saved? Wonderful!

Suppose you had to work your way to Heaven? How could you do it? How could you pay for all the harm in the heart? You could never get enough to give to pay God to let you into Heaven. This is the best cure for snake bite. Nobody ever had a snake bite in the heart cured any other way. If you have a snake bite of the soul or in your heart, look to Jesus on the cross and He forgives everything and you are cured of your snake bite.

I remember my brother once, years ago, got bitten by a snake, and they took him in the house and put his foot in a bucket of kerosene oil — I don't know whether that was good for snake bite or not. He almost died. Some people think if you have a snake bite you have got to drink whiskey or some way cut the place and let it bleed or put potassium of permanganate on it. There are a lot of ways to treat snake bite of the body, but there is just one way for snake bite of the heart — the only way in the world when you have snake bite of the heart is to look to Jesus on the cross and trust Him to forgive you.

Being a Christian is a very definite thing. Suppose I ask you (turning to a boy near), "Do you have any money in the bank?"

(Boy answers), "No, sir."

See, you knew right away about that. Later on if I asked you, you may have some money in the bank. But the way to have money in the bank is to go put it in. You don't have any money in the bank unless you risk them and turn it over to them.

Let me ask you another question (turning to a young lady). Will you help me preach a little?

Are you married?

(Smiling, confused, she answers), "No."

If you were married, you would know it, wouldn't you? You would have to agree to it and you would have to say "yes," and the preacher would ask you, "Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband?" and you would say, "I do." You couldn't be married without knowing it!

Let me ask some other fellow a question: "If you got in jail because you got drunk and were tearing around town in a car and ran into a lamp post or cursed out a policeman and you got put in jail — and that would serve you right. I hope you do get put in jail if you ever do that way — and if I came in and said, 'Do you have a lawyer yet?'" you would know,

wouldn't you? Yes, because that is a very definite business, hiring a lawyer. You would call him up and say, "Come on down here. I played the fool and now I am in jail, can't you rake up bail and get me out?"

Now you would know whether you had hired a lawyer or not.

If a fellow is sick and about to die — if you were sick and about to die, and I asked you, "Have you called a doctor yet and turned the case over to him?" you would know whether you had called the doctor, wouldn't you? Either yes or no. That is easy.

Now let me ask you this:

Was there ever a time that you saw you were a wicked sinner and you saw you were snake bitten in your heart, and so you called on Jesus and turned it over to Him and He forgave you of your sin and made you a Christian in your heart? Wait before you answer. You ought to know just as definitely as somebody who gets married or calls a doctor or takes money to the bank and deposits it. If there was a time when you saw you were a wicked sinner and realized there was poison in your heart and you needed forgiveness, if there was a time when you came and said, "Lord Jesus, I want You to be my Saviour, I will give You my heart today," and in your heart He answered back, "I will forgive you and be your Saviour, and you are God's child."

I am not talking about just something like praying alone. Lots of people pray who never turn the whole heart over to Christ for salvation. Praying is not enough. Did you turn this over to Jesus so that He forgave you and gave you a new heart? Did you have your heart changed? Did God forgive all your sins?

First, I will ask the girls, then the boys. How many of you can say, "I am glad I can say I know when I was converted. I trusted Jesus as my Saviour and He came in. I admitted I was a sinner and He came in, and I know I have been converted. I have turned my sins over to Jesus and He has saved me. I feel sure in my heart I have had it settled." (Quietly a number raised their hands.)

Don't do it unless you know. Thank you very much.

Now, listen, I wonder how many will say — we are going to have a prayer in a little bit — "Well, Brother Rice, I know that is sensible and right, and I realize I am a sinner." You do, don't you? "I realize that is right and I believe first that I am a sinner, and I believe second, that Jesus died for me and that He loves me and is willing to save me. Third, I believe I have got to decide it and turn it over to Jesus or I will go to Hell. Brother Rice, if you will pray for me, I will pray, too, and try to look to Jesus in my heart and try to turn it over to Him to save me. I would like to have that settled. I don't have it settled yet." If you mean it in your heart will you raise your hands?

(Prayer: I am glad, Jesus, that You died for all our sins. I know there wouldn't be a chance in the world for any of us if You hadn't died for us. Now there are some people here who need this settled. They know I have told the truth

about sin and have told them what the Bible says, 'All have sinned,' and our consciences tell us that, too. Lord, these have sinned, and they know they have got to die, and they are likely to die and go to Hell if they don't turn to Thee. I am glad I turned to You back yonder. Help these young men and boys and these girls this morning to trust You in their hearts, and receive You, dear Lord Jesus, in their hearts, and You save them, for Jesus' sake, this morning. Amen.)

Now I would like to know, first of all, how many are twelve years old or more? You can be saved younger than twelve years old — I was, and my girls here were. But I want the older ones to lead the way. Older ones ought to do right first. I wonder how many of you can say, "Brother Rice, already I have trusted Him as my Saviour, and this morning I am not ashamed for everybody to know it, and I am taking my stand for Him this morning." From now on and forever — those who are already saved, will you stand up first? Those who are twelve years old or older. (Those already professing Christians stood.)

How many will say, "I will this morning"? You stand up, too, if you will.

(A quiet time, waiting while many, about 12, stood.)

Now anybody who is younger than twelve, if you have already trusted Him, you stand up.

And if there is anybody else who will say, "Now in my heart I will trust Him to be my Saviour," you stand too.

How many believe that just today you really turned it over to Jesus and you believe He has come into your heart and has forgiven your sins? How many believe He has done that today?

(A quiet time followed, in which the powerful moving of the Holy Spirit was felt by all. There was no excitement, no pressure from the preacher. Those who claimed the Lord included many older boys and girls, teen age and even older. Many had already been members of the church but acknowledged that they had never known what it was to commit their souls to Christ in simple faith.)

MY DECISION FOR CHRIST

Reader, if you are unconverted, will you take Christ today? Do it right now and sign the decision here. Make it definite. Let me know and I will write you a personal letter. Be saved today!

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, *The Sword of the Lord*
512 West Franklin Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read the sermon on "A CURE FOR SNAKE BITE." I realize that I am a poor lost sinner. I now understand that Jesus died in my place and paid for my sins. Now, today, I look to Jesus in my heart. I trust Him to forgive all my sins and change my heart as He promised to do. Now and forever I give Him my heart, and claim Him as my own personal Saviour.

Signed _____

Address _____

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